(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of fatal diseases amongst persons in the habit of taking Pan, Gutkha, Cigarette and Liquor are increasing all over the country at a fast pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prevention of consumption of above items is being obstructed by the producers of the above items who are very powerful and have very firm hold; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for preventing consumption of the said items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information on time trends of deaths due to use of tobacco products and alcohol is not available. Studies on tobacco related diseases indicate that about 8 lakh persons in India die every year due to tobacco use, and several of them suffer from cancer, heart and lung diseases. Frequent use of alcohol is associated with diseases of various organ systems namely, gastrointestinal system, cardiovascular system, central nervous system, liver cirrhosis, etc. It is estimated that more than 20% of accident related head injury is associated with alcohol consumption.

(c) and (d) In order to discourage the use of tobacco products, the Government has introduced a comprehensive Bill, namely "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 in the Rajya Sabha. This bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which has submitted the report. The report is under consideration of the Ministry.

News-item, "And Safdarjung Hospital stinks for want of water"

456. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "And Safdarjung Hospital stinks for want of water", which appeared in the Statesman, dated the 18th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the said news-item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Against the demand of potable water of 3,400 kilolitres approximately per day the hospital is receiving only 1700 kilolitres from the NDMC, the MCD and 12 tube wells of Safdarjung Hospital. The scarcity of water is due to inadequate supply of water from the NDMC, the MCD and lowering down of water level as a result of delay in arrival of monsoon. The supply of potable water is, however, being augmented through water tankers.

State Health System Development Project

457. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have taken up the State Health System Development Project for supplementing the infrastructure;

(b) the achievements of the project since its inception in 1995;

(c) whether some new States have submitted proposals for this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The States of Andra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, West Bengal, Orissa Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have taken State Health System Development Project with World Bank assistance.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Government Ayurvedic Institute in Chhattisgarh

†458. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.